

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-58 (Canceled)

Claim 59 (previously presented): A device for facilitating fluid flow from the lumen of an anatomical conduit, out of a first opening formed at a first location in the wall of that anatomical conduit, through a flow channel located outside of the lumen of that anatomical conduit and back into the lumen of that anatomical conduit through a second opening formed at a second location in the wall of that anatomical conduit, said device comprising:

a first radially expandable annular member that is transitionable from a radially compact configuration to a radially expanded configuration;

a second radially expandable annular member that is transitionable from a radially compact configuration to a radially expanded configuration;

a connecting portion that is attached to and extends between the first and second annular members, said connecting portion having a pre-expansion configuration and a post-expansion configuration, a flow channel being defined within the connecting portion when it is in the post-expansion configuration;

said device being initially transluminally deliverable with the annular members in radially collapsed configurations and the connection portion in the pre-expansion configuration; and

said device being thereafter implantable such that i) the first and second annular members are positioned at spaced apart locations within the lumen of the anatomical conduit and disposed in radially expanded configurations such that they engage the wall of that anatomical conduit and ii) the connecting portion is deployed in the post-expansion configuration and extends from the first annular member, through the first opening in the wall of the anatomical conduit, through the second opening in the wall of the anatomical conduit and to the second annular member.

60 (previously presented): A system comprising a device according to Claim 60 further in combination with a delivery catheter having a lumen, said device being positioned within the lumen of the delivery catheter with the annular members in radially collapsed configurations and the connection portion in the pre-expansion configuration.

61 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 60 wherein the proximal and distal annular members have different longitudinal axes after the device has been implanted.

62 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 60 wherein said connecting portion comprises a plurality of strut members connected to and extending between the annular members.

63 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 62 wherein adjacent ones of said strut members are spaced apart from each other and disposed about a central axis when the device is implanted, such that a hollow flow channel is defined within said strut members.

64 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 62 further comprising a cover on the connecting portion of the device, said cover having a generally tubular shape when the connection portion is in the post-expansion configuration.

65 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 62 wherein said strut members are formed at least partially of resilient material such that the connecting portion remains in the pre-expansion configuration when radially constrained but self expands to the post-expansion configuration when radially unconstrained.

66 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 65 wherein said resilient material is selected from the group of resilient materials consisting of:

spring metal;
a resilient polymer; and
a shape memory alloy.

67 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 62 wherein said strut members are formed at least partially of malleable material.

68 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 67 wherein said malleable material is selected from the group of malleable materials consisting of:
plastically deformable metal; and
plastically deformable polymer.

69 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 60 wherein said first and second annular members are of different size when in radially expanded configurations.

70 (previously presented): A system comprising a device according to Claim 67 further in combination with a delivery catheter upon which the device is mounted while the annular members in radially collapsed configurations and the connection portion in the pre-expansion configuration, said delivery catheter comprising a pressure-exerting member positioned within said device and useable to exert outwardly directed radial pressure upon the device so as to cause the annular members to expand to radially expanded configurations and the connecting portion to transition to the post-expansion configuration.

71 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 70 wherein said pressure-exerting device comprises a balloon.

72 (previously presented): A system according to Claim 70 wherein the balloon has a curved configuration when inflated.

73 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 59 wherein the connecting portion has a first end and a second end, the first end of the connecting portion being attached to the first annular member by a flexible connection and the second end of the connecting portion being attached to the second annular member by a flexible connection.

74 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 73 wherein loops are formed on the first and second ends of the connecting portion and wherein portions of said annular members are captured within said loops, to thereby form said flexible connections between the connecting portion and the first and second annular members.

75 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 64 wherein said cover is substantially impervious to blood such that blood flowing through the flow channel will be substantially contained within said cover.

76 (previously presented): A device according to Claim 60 wherein said connecting portion has a multicurve post-expansion configuration.